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REPORT

WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Reserved

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

WR 26-83

WASHINGTON, June 29-The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

GRAIN AND FEED

Poor crop prospects are expected to boost 1983/84 (July-June) MEXICAN wheat import demand to roughly 1.2 million tons, up dramatically from 1982/83 imports of 100,000 tons. Although the United States has supplied 90 percent of Mexico's wheat import needs over the past five years, Canada has already sold 440,000 tons of "special binned" wheat for shipment in June-September. Much of the Canadian wheat is expected to be used for feed and could also affect feedgrain import demand, which is traditionally met by the United States.

OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS

The UNITED STATES sunflowerseed crushing industry is in the doldrums. In North Dakota and Minnesota, there are five plants that crush sunflowerseed--three are purpose-built plants, and two are mainly flax seed crushing plants that crush sunflowerseed on a part-time basis. Due mainly to depressed sunoil prices and poor crushing margins, only two plants are currently operating on sunflowerseed, another plant is crushing flax seed and the other two plants are shut down.

The main problem has been competition in overseas markets from low priced Argentine sunoil. A recent attache report from Buenos Aires indicated that Argentina had sold most of its supplies of sunoil. However, at present there seems to be little if any additional overseas demand.

Trade sources indicate that crude sunoil is selling at a discount to crude degummed soy oil--discounts of \$4 to \$10 per ton (basis New Orleans) have been reported. Sunoil normally sells at a significant premium to soy oil.

The PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority (PCA) has restricted coconut oil exports to only three of the 44 coconut milling firms currently operating. These 3 firms represent 68 percent of the Philippines' total milling capacity and accounted for 84 percent of the coconut oil exported from the Philippines in 1982. According to the PCA, this marketing arrangement is necessary to ensure an orderly distribution of limited availabilities of coconut oil this year and will assure that domestic demand is given priority.

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EDWIN MOFFETT, Editor, Tel. (202) 382-9443. Additional copies may be obtained from FAS Information Services staff, 5918-South, Washington, D.C. 20250. Tel. (202) 447-7937.

An early spring in the SOVIET UNION allowed sowing of most oilseed crops west of the Ural Mountains at optimal planting dates, according to the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Moscow. Some dryness occurred in the important sunflowerseed areas of southern European USSR, but the condition is not critical at present because of timely showers. Conditions throughout the remainder of the crop areas remain favorable at this time. Estimates from the counselor for the 1983/84 production of major oilseeds in million metric tons are: sunflowerseed 5.0-5.8, cottonseed 5.0-5.2, soybean 0.44-0.48, flaxseed 0.18-0.24, rapeseed 0.13-0.15.

DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Livestock production on state and collective farms in the SOVIET UNION continues to average well above the level of 1982, which was a poor year. Meat production for the first 5 months of 1983 is reported to be up 7 percent, with beef up 5 percent, pork up 10 percent and poultry meat production up 12 percent. Milk production is up 12 percent, and egg production is up 6 percent. Procurements of meat from state and collective farms are up 8 percent, while milk procurements are reported to be 16 percent above 1982's level. Milk production for the month of May is reported to have exceeded that of May 1978, the previous record.

Cattle numbers on state and collective farms on June 1 were 96.8 million head, up over 1 percent; however, the number of cows was down slightly. Hog numbers were reported at 58.6 million head, 5 percent above year-earlier levels. A better feed situation due to a mild winter and an early spring accompanied by normal rainfall is thought to be the primary factor behind this improved performance for the livestock sector.

The JAPANESE livestock census of February 1983 shows cattle numbers at 4,579,000 head, up 3 percent from last year. Dairy cattle were unchanged from a year ago. Beef cattle were up 6 percent, with beef breeds up 3 percent and dairy cattle fed for beef up 11 percent.

COTTON AND FIBERS

The outlook for the SOVIET UNION's cotton crop in 1983/84 is mixed, according to the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Moscow. Planting started early and was completed within the optimal period. Early season concern about water supplies has been alleviated somewhat because recent rains have improved low soil moisture levels and partially replenished water supplies in irrigation reservoirs; however, irrigation water shortages which plagued the 1982/83 crop could occur before the end of the season. Given normal weather for the remainder of the season, production is expected to recover somewhat from last year's poor harvest of 9.3 million tons of seed cotton.

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The 1983/84 GUATEMALAN cotton crop could increase about 50 percent from the previous year's very low crop of 210,000 bales, according to the Agricultural Attache in Guatemala. The government, which is usually not involved with cotton production, has put together an incentives program to revive declining output. This decision was based upon the need for foreign exchange, cottonseed for oil and national employment goals. The plans call for a 42-percent increase in cotton acreage.

MEXICO reports very tight cotton supplies as the 1982/83 season draws to a close. Reports from the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in Mexico City indicate Mexican domestic cotton mill use has exceeded earlier forecasts at an estimated 620,000 bales, 75 percent of the short 1982 crop. The domestic industry normally consumes about 50 percent of the cotton crop. Exports have been suspended until September, and reports indicate Mexico will import 21,000 bales from El Salvador.

According to the U.S. Agricultural Counselor in SOUTH AFRICA, the 1983/84 cotton crop is forecast at 250,000 bales, nearly double last season's drought-reduced crop of 130,000 bales. Favorable support prices should encourage farmers to increase plantings. However, early season rainfall will be crucial to the development of the crop since irrigation supplies are extremely low in many of the cotton producing areas. Currently, about 36 percent of the area devoted to cotton production is irrigated. Planting will begin next October.

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Selected International Prices

Item		June 28, 1983	Change from previous week	A year ago
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/		\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT
Wheat:				
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.	201.00	5.47	+1.00	195.00
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%...	181.00	4.93	-4.00	174.50
U.S. No. 2 DHW/HW: 13.5%...	N.Q.	--	--	173.00
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W.....	148.00	4.03	-8.50	N.Q.
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D.....	192.00	5.23	-3.00	171.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum..	209.00 14/	5.69	-1.00	N.Q.
Feed grains:				
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn....	147.00	3.73	+2.50	120.50
U.S. No. 2 Sorghum 2/.....	N.Q.	--	--	N.Q.
Feed Barley 3/.....	N.Q.	--	--	N.Q.
Soybeans and meal:				
U.S. No. 2 Yellow.....	236.00	6.42	-4.00	247.50
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets 4/	208.00	--	-4.00	220.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal.....	206.00	--	-2.00	213.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 5/				
Wheat.....	128.97	3.51	-1.84	127.50
Barley.....	81.76	1.78	-2.75	80.38
Corn.....	121.65	3.09	+.79	99.99
Sorghum.....	114.42	5.19 6/	-1.55	93.70
Broilers 7/.....	1095.69	--	+23.15	N.A.
EC IMPORT LEVIES				
Wheat 8/.....	104.28	2.84	+5.03	96.80
Barley.....	109.24	2.38	-.60	84.65
Corn.....	74.76	1.90	+.76	93.70
Sorghum.....	90.71	2.30	+10.76	92.75
Broilers 9/.....	283.00	N.Q.	+4.00 13/	258.00
EC INTERVENTION PRICES 11/				
Common wheat(feed quality)	181.33	4.93	+2.26	175.94
Bread wheat.....	198.88	5.41	+2.49	202.03
Barley and all other feed grains.....	181.33	--	+2.26	175.94
Broilers 12/.....	1155.00	N.Q.	+26.00	N.Q.
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsidies)				
Wheat.....	24.20	.66	-1.67	66.37
Wheat flour.....	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Barley.....	N.A.	--	--	N.A.
Broilers 9/.....	203.00	N.Q.	+3.00 13/	171.00
Sugar, refined	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f., Rotterdam. 2/ Optional delivery: Argentine Granifero sorghum. 3/ Optional delivery: Canadian feed barley. 4/ Optional delivery: Argentine. 5/ Based on selected major markets and adjusted to reflect farm prices more closely. 6/ Hundredweight (CWT). 7/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted average. 8/ Durum has a special levy. 9/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 10/ Reflects exchange rate change and not level set by EC. 11/ F.O.B. price for R.T.C. whole broilers at West German border. 12/ F.o.b price for R.T.C. whole broilers at West German border. 13/ Reflects exchange rate change and not change in level set by EC. 14/ June 10-July 10 Shipment. N.Q.=Not quoted. N.A.=None authorized. Note: Basis July delivery.

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¹ Available from FAS, Information Division, Room 5918 South Building.

² Prepared jointly by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Economic Research Service and the World Agricultural Outlook Board. Limited number of copies and subscription information are available from the World Agricultural Outlook Board Room 5143 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-5447.

³ On day of release copies available from USDA Press Service.

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